



Minutes City Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee November 7, 2006

Minutes of the Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee held on November 7, 2006, 3:00 p.m., at the Third Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Chair

Committee Member Absent:

Councilmember Barbara Carter

City Staff Present:

Kate Hanley, TCC Executive Director
Sheri Wakefield-Saenz, Deputy Community Development Director
Tom Canasi, Community Services Manager
Judy Tapscott, Community Services Deputy Manager
Mark Richwine, Parks & Recreation Manager
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Manager
Sheri Partridge, Council Aide

Guests Present:

Lynette Stonefeld, Director, Communities in Schools
Dr. Arthur Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District
Larry Pieratt, Arizona State University
Gina Taylor, Kyrene School District
Amanda Burke, Arizona State University
Ron Bergez, Tempe Preparatory Academy
Karen Poole, Maricopa Community Colleges
Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado Community College
Barbara Khalsen, Rio Salado Community College
MaryAnn Miller, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Shirley Miles, Superintendent, TUHSD
Emilie Isaacs, Williams & Associates
Eric Emmert, Tempe Resident
Loui Olivas, Arizona State University
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Meeting convened at 3:05 p.m.

Councilmember Shekerjian called the meeting to order and welcomed all the guests. Time was taken for introductions.

Agenda Item #1 – Discuss Committee goals and scope of work

0101-01-03

This was the second review of the work plan for the City Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee. Tempe is a unique place, in that we have a major university here, we have two elementary school districts and a high school district. We also have headquarters for one of the country's largest community college districts, so we are in a very unique position in terms of education and educational opportunities. Councilmember Shekerjian's hope is that this list will show what the City is considering and generate some feedback. It might also provide some other ideas in terms of supporting education and raising the bar in Tempe to meet all student needs.

The proposed work plans is as follows:

1. **Facilitating partnerships between all education entities and Tempe.**
 - Inventory current partnering between the City and all educational entities
 - Explore avenues to meet current community need for Kid Zone program
 - Facilitate internships for High School students with the Chamber of Commerce, City, Higher Education & Tempe Businesses
 - Explore creating, with community partners, an Education Speakers Series
 - Facilitate the discussion and possible creation of a Bridges (cognition remediation) program
 - Review progress of wi-fi in schools
2. **Enabling the development of programs that will result in school improvement, including community-in-schools programs and other information resources for parents.**
 - Explore the potential of aiding in the creation of a Parent Education Resource Center with or through our community partners
3. **Assisting in the development of life-long learning opportunities including workforce development, drop out prevention, special education, literacy programs and visual and performing arts education.**
 - Promote mock government programs for our students such as Girls State & Boys State
 - Aid in the expansion of the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program
 - Aid in the creation of an IB (International Baccalaureate) program for the high school district
 - Facilitate the discussion and possible creation of a Bridges (cognition remediation) program

- Explore ways in which the city can assist in improving middle school achievement
- Create City Council Reading Program
- Provide finance education to our employees via the city's investment brokers
- Support and explore opportunities to expand arts participation for citizens of all ages including but not limited to:
 1. The creation of a Tempe city wide youth band

4. **Developing opportunities to provide services through school facilities**

- Aid in the promotion of Art programs in the schools with programs such as Masterpiece and Studio Artists
- Explore creating tutoring programs through Kid Zone utilizing grant funding from sources such as NCLB (No Child Left Behind)

5. **Identifying and facilitating resource sharing, and the consolidation of purchasing and maintenance between all educational entities and the City.**

- Have City's purchasing department collaborate with the Schools, University and Community Colleges' purchasing department

6. **Facilitating ASU and Maricopa Community College District's participation in education improvement in all Tempe schools.**

- Career / Education Fair event for east valley
- Investigate possible partnerships for providing ABE (adult basic education programs) and ACE (Achieving a College Education) programs at all the City's community centers

7. **Identifying and assisting joint transportation solutions and joint facilities development for school / resident use (e.g. North Tempe Multi-Generational Center).**

- Encourage mass transit use by school staff and students
- Promote Walk to School programs
- Investigate partnering opportunities for lighting ball fields

8. **Aiding in and working with ASU for the development of High-Tech, Bio-Tech and Nano-Tech facilities with Tempe.**

- Inventory of current efforts to support the High-Tech, Bio-Tech and Nano-Tech industries
- Facilitate City support for the growth of High Tech, Bio Tech and Nano Tech industries in Tempe
- Explore opportunities to promote Tempe as the "Smart Place to Be"
- Exam avenues for expanding "wet lab space" in Tempe

- Create a web based clearinghouse of information that would include but not be limited to:
 1. Corporate training available through Tempe higher education entities
 2. Regularly updated list of available office space
 3. Partnering opportunities with ASU for:
 - Internships
 - New employment

Shirley Miles stated that the list of goals is ambitious, but the goals are good and certainly doable.

Tom Canasi stated there are several items his department could come back with in the near future. For example, Kid Zone enrollment numbers continue to increase and the challenge is to train and maintain staff for the current 19 sites. This will be submitted for discussion through the normal budget process. In addition to that, there are a number of projects they are working on that can come back at any time, such as the Mayor/City Council Reading Program. Our Library is very much involved in literacy. They have received a number of large grants lately and the partnership with the High School District has been good. Concerning the creation of the citywide Youth Band, they currently work with that organization. They are very well received and are based out of Corona del Sol High School. This item could be ready to come back to the Committee in the early part of January. Concerning the Masterpiece Artist & Studio Artists, they currently work with eight artists who provide educational instruction in Tempe Elementary District classrooms for fourth, fifth and recently piloted third grade. This is a program that could be expanded with the Kyrene School District. These are just some of the current programs that could be expanded upon.

Chris Bustamante welcomed the opportunity to at least dialogue about collaboration. One of the great things that community colleges do is to customize programs, so if there isn't a program currently out there, they certainly have the ability to create it. They have expertise in work force training programs and teacher education programs, and one of their biggest partnerships in the Valley is on dual enrollment, early college experience program. They really are available in terms of being willing to talk about those collaborations.

Kate Hanley briefly discussed family resource centers and Community for Kids. Youth Showcase has already been approved. The SACA grant program, Grad Night program, Unity Grant Program, Cinderella Affair, and Open Horizon are also in operation.

It was mutually agreed upon that the Tempe Community Council would continue to do those programs and some of these new goals could be partnered in with those. Expanding current programs would be preferable to reinventing the wheel. Nothing should be in conflict, and we should be able to share resources and then open them up to a broader range of people.

Dr. Arthur Tate briefly discussed that the development of the City is not enabling their enrollment, and their enrollment is going down. That is a very serious problem. There is competition between the districts to attract each other's students. Looking at the ideas of how we look at resources and identifying resources to support our districts is a nice strategy, in addition to looking at ways to have programs and invite children into our districts. We need to identify why student enrollment in private and charter schools is increasing, and which programs

we aren't providing that families might like. We need to determine how we can recapture our students.

Shirley Miles stated that it is not just the aging population, but the cost of housing is also affecting enrollment. They hear this from teaching staff. Even with a two teacher income, they are not able to afford housing in Tempe. This makes it difficult to attract and retain staff. Tempe Schools Credit Union is working with them to create some low interest loans for teachers to help them stay within the district limits. Programs in larger cities need to be explored to see how they might be mirrored for our city.

Lynette Stonefeld stated that the beauty of this committee is that it gives all three school districts the opportunity to come to the table and talk about their concerns.

Ron Bergez thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend and be at the table. It's nice to have the charter school invited. He has a lot to learn because he has been in the classroom much more than he has been an administrator.

Amanda Burke felt that ASU has a lot to bring to the table. They have already started to work different angles.

Karen Poole stated that they are also looking forward to being involved in some of the partnerships that will come out of this committee.

Councilmember Shekerjian thanked everyone for their input and prior to the next meeting, she will reorganize the list of goals.

Shelley Hearn stated that in the interim, she will be sending out a contact list for everyone so that if anyone has ideas or future agenda items after reviewing the list, they would have contact numbers to reach staff.


Agenda Item #2 – Future Agenda Items

- Kid Zone
- East Valley Career Fair

The Committee's next meeting will be December 5, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Karen Fillmore
Reviewed by: Connie Krosschell



Connie Krosschell
Acting City Clerk